



File Code: 1950
Date: July 24, 2019

Dear Interested Parties:

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project has been completed and is available for review and comment. A copy of the draft EA is available online at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55119>. This draft EA is also available upon request at the Hoosier National Forest Supervisor's Office, 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421; telephone: (812) 275-5987.

The Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project would move the Forest toward its desired future condition as identified in the 2006 Hoosier National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan by treating vegetation and conducting related management activities to improve forest health and increase sustainability of oak-hickory ecosystems, while also improving wildlife habitat. The project area is located on the Brownstown Ranger District of the Hoosier National Forest in Jackson and Lawrence Counties, Indiana. The legal descriptions of the proposed actions are as follows:

- T7N, R2E, all or portions of Sections 25-28 and 33-36
- T7N, R3E, all or portions of Sections 20-23, 26-30, and 31-36
- T6N, R3W, all or portions of Sections 2-6, 7-11, and 14-18
- T6N, R2E, all or portions of Sections 1-4, 10-12, and 13

I am inviting you to comment on the proposed Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project. We will accept comments for 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Bloomington Herald-Times* and the *Bedford Times Mail*, our newspaper of record. The publication date in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the comment period. Do not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by any other source. Regulations prohibit extending the length of the comment period. Comments submitted during the 30-day comment period for the draft EA will be used to identify remaining issues with the proposal or associated environmental analysis so the EA can be finalized and a draft Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) can be prepared. Individuals or entities who submit comments during a designated comment period may be eligible to submit an objection when the draft DN is ready for public review (36 CFR 218.13).

Comments received in response to this invitation, including name and address of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and will be available for public review. In order for your comments to be considered, they must be submitted in one of the following ways:



Written comments

- Mail: Michelle Paduani, District Ranger, Attn: Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project, 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421.
- FAX: 812-279-3423, Attn: Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project
- Email: comments-eastern-hoosier@fs.fed.us
Electronic comments must be submitted in a format such as an email message, plain text (.txt), rich text (.rtf), Word (.doc or .docx) or Portable Document Format (.pdf). Please include the subject header “Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project” in your email.

Hand delivered comments

- Written comments can be hand delivered to the Forest Supervisor’s Office at 811 Constitution Avenue, Bedford, IN 47421 during normal business hours, Monday to Friday, excluding holidays (8:00 am – 4:30 pm).
- Written comments can also be hand delivered during either of the public meetings:
 - Monday, August 5th from 6-8 p.m. (EDT) at Brownstown Central High School, 500 N. Elm St., Brownstown, Indiana
 - Wednesday, August 7th from 6-8 p.m. (EDT) at Monroe County Public Library, 303 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, Indiana

Please be sure to include the following information with your comments to be eligible to submit an objection (36 CFR 218.25):

1. Name and postal address (phone number and email address is recommended but not required)
2. Title of the proposed action (Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project)
3. Specific written comments regarding the proposed action (comments should be within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and must include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider)
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request.

If you would like more information concerning the Houston South Vegetation Management and Restoration Project draft EA, or have any questions regarding the commenting process, please contact Kevin Amick at (812) 276-4746 or via email at kamick@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

/s/ Michelle Paduani
MICHELLE PADUANI
District Ranger

cc: Kevin Amick